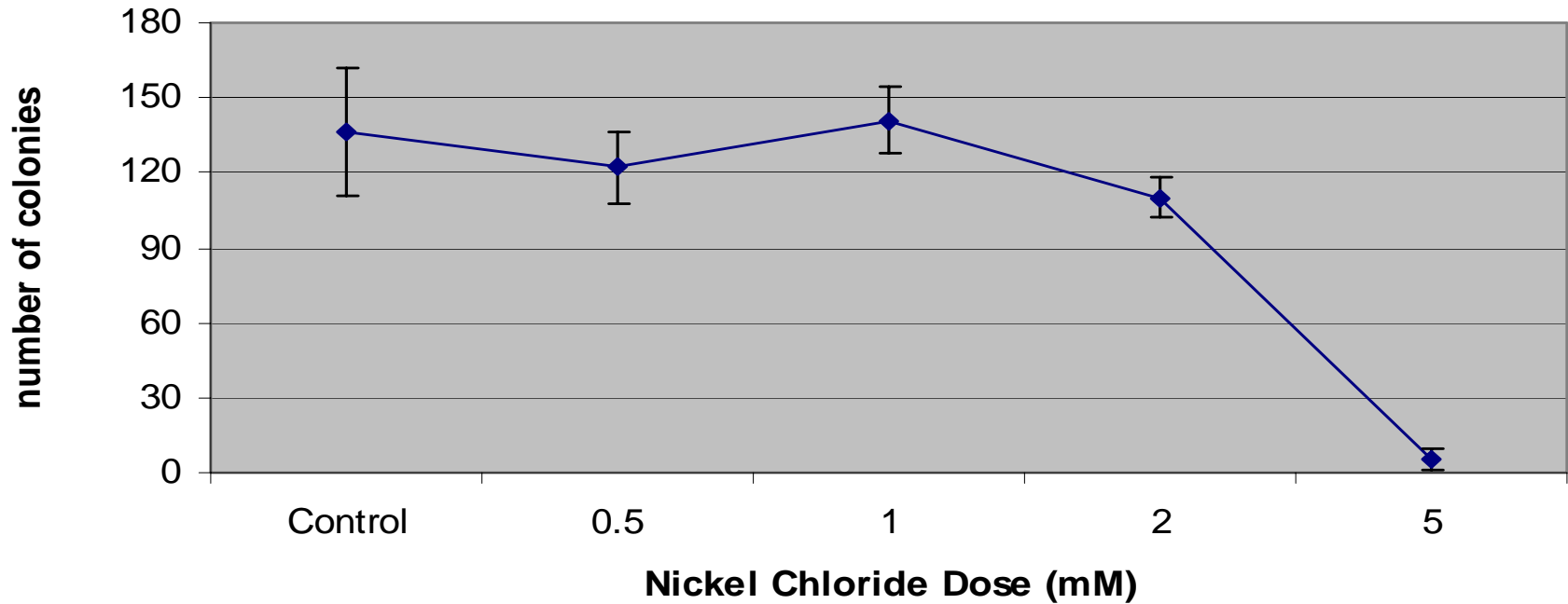


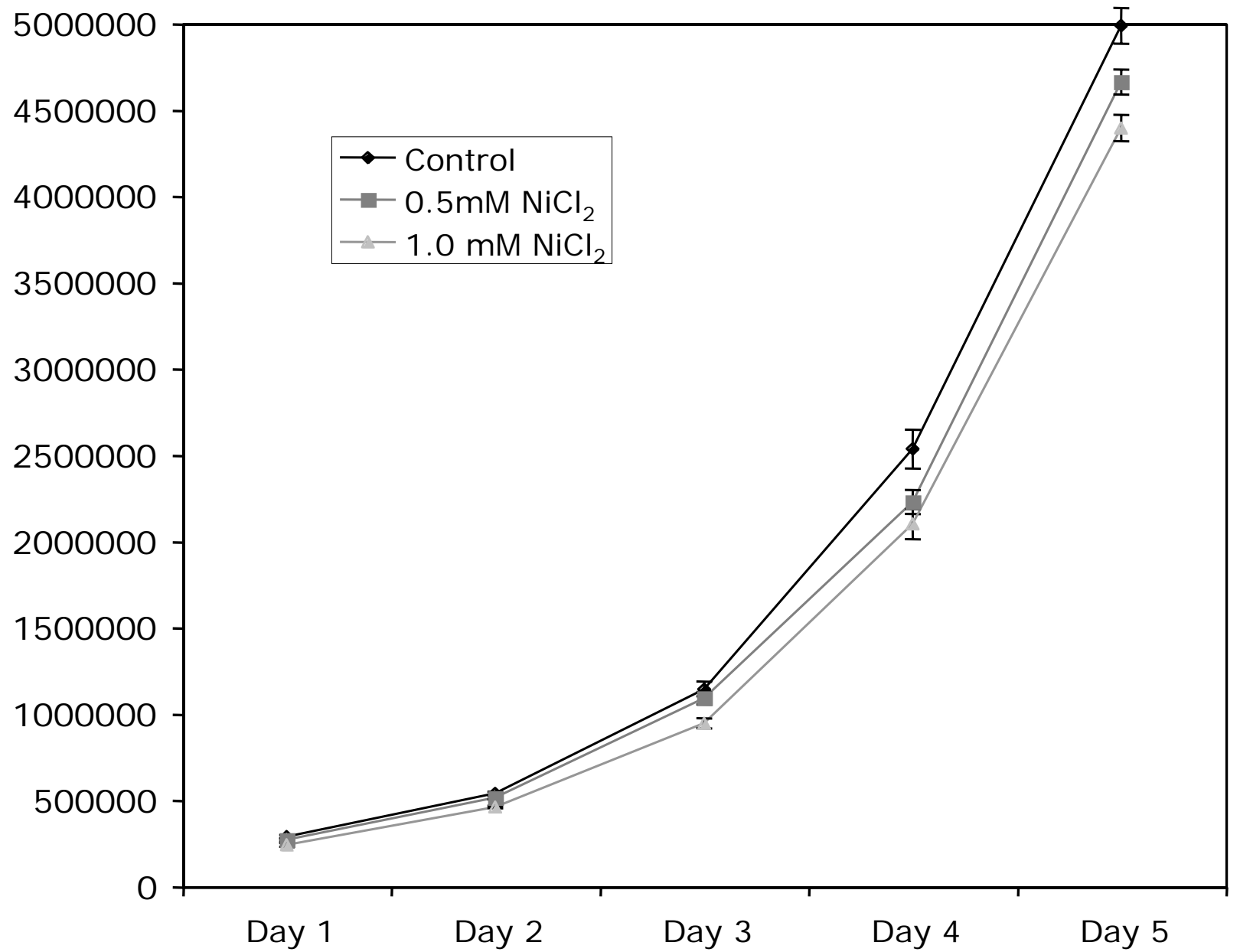
# Nickel and Megasites

- Nickel compounds are major contaminants in many superfund sites
- Although Ni ions are required for certain enzymes in bacteria and plants (Ureases, Dehydrogenases), No known function in mammals.
- Certain Ni compounds that deliver Ni ions into cells, are potently carcinogenic (nasal, lung cancers etc at site of exposure)
- ~~Additional~~ toxicities include: contact depression of lung function, and cardiovascular effects.

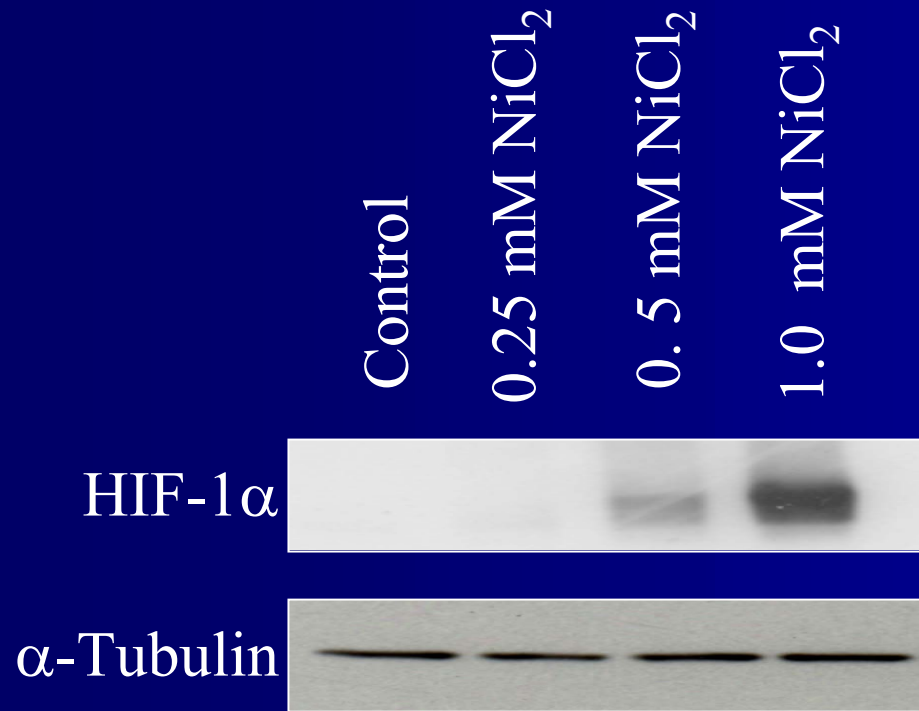
# Effect of 24 hr exposure of A549 Cells to $\text{NiCl}_2$ On Cell Colony Formation

**Cell Colony Formation After Ni Treatment**





# HIF-1 alpha protein levels at 5 hrs



1 mM NiCl<sub>2</sub>

Control

1 Hour

2 Hours

4 Hours

6 hours

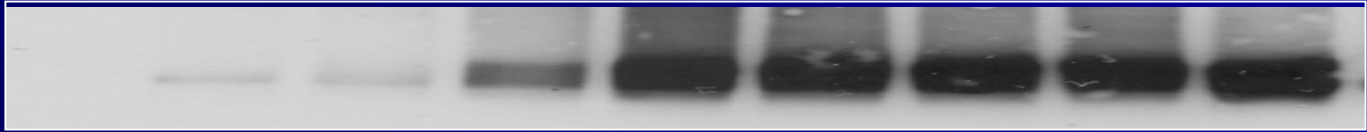
18 hours

24 hours

48 hours

72 hours

HIF-1 $\alpha$

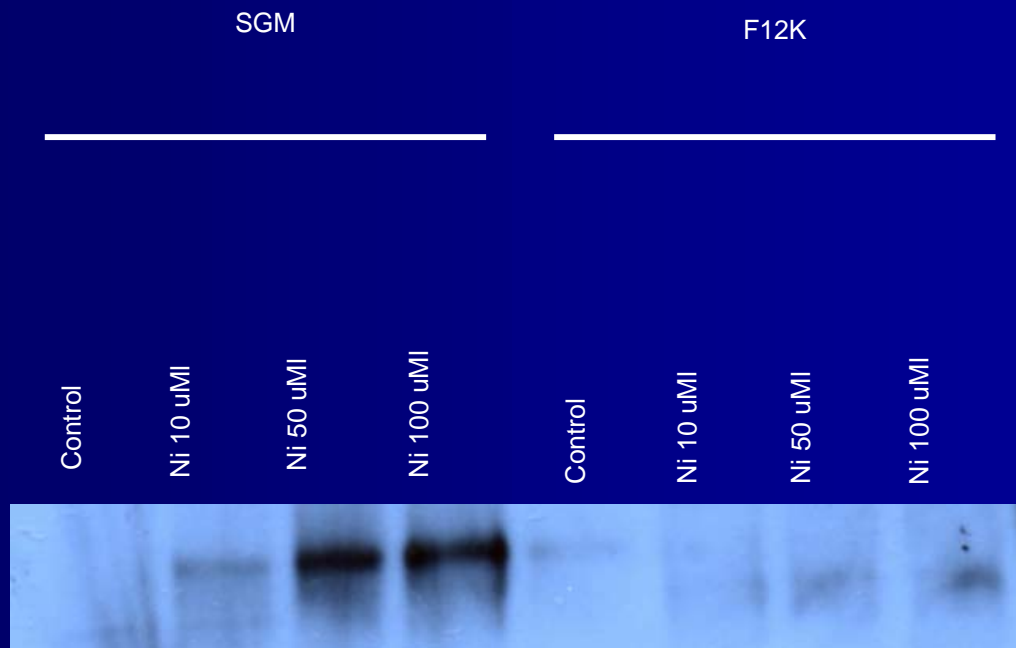


$\alpha$ -Tubulin



## A549

5 hr exp.



Structural/functional  
abnormalities of  
vasculature

Increased  
diffusion  
distances

Anemia-  
related  
O<sub>2</sub> transport↓

Inadequate O<sub>2</sub> supply

Hypoxia

HIF-1 $\alpha$

VEGF, iNOS

EGF  
IGF-2  
TGF- $\beta$

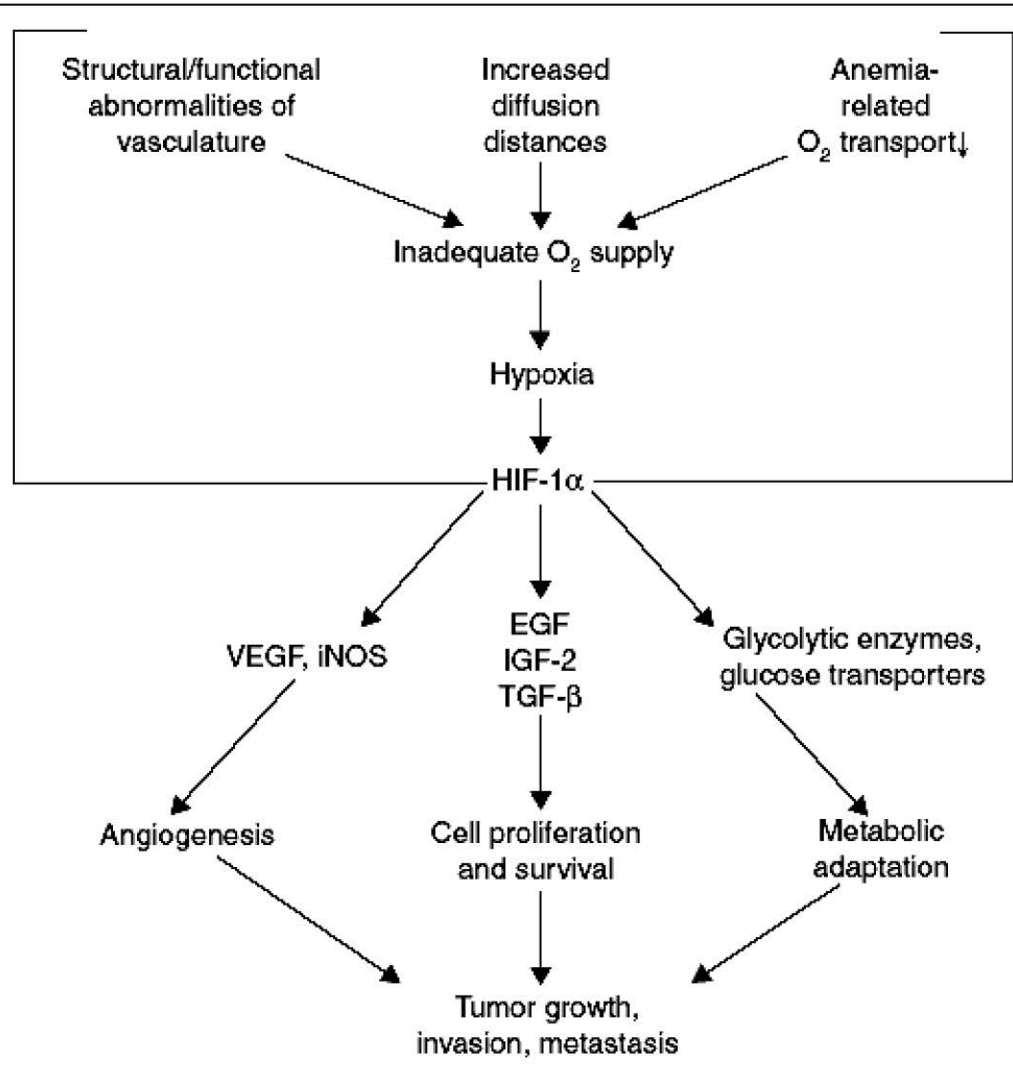
Glycolytic enzymes,  
glucose transporters

Angiogenesis

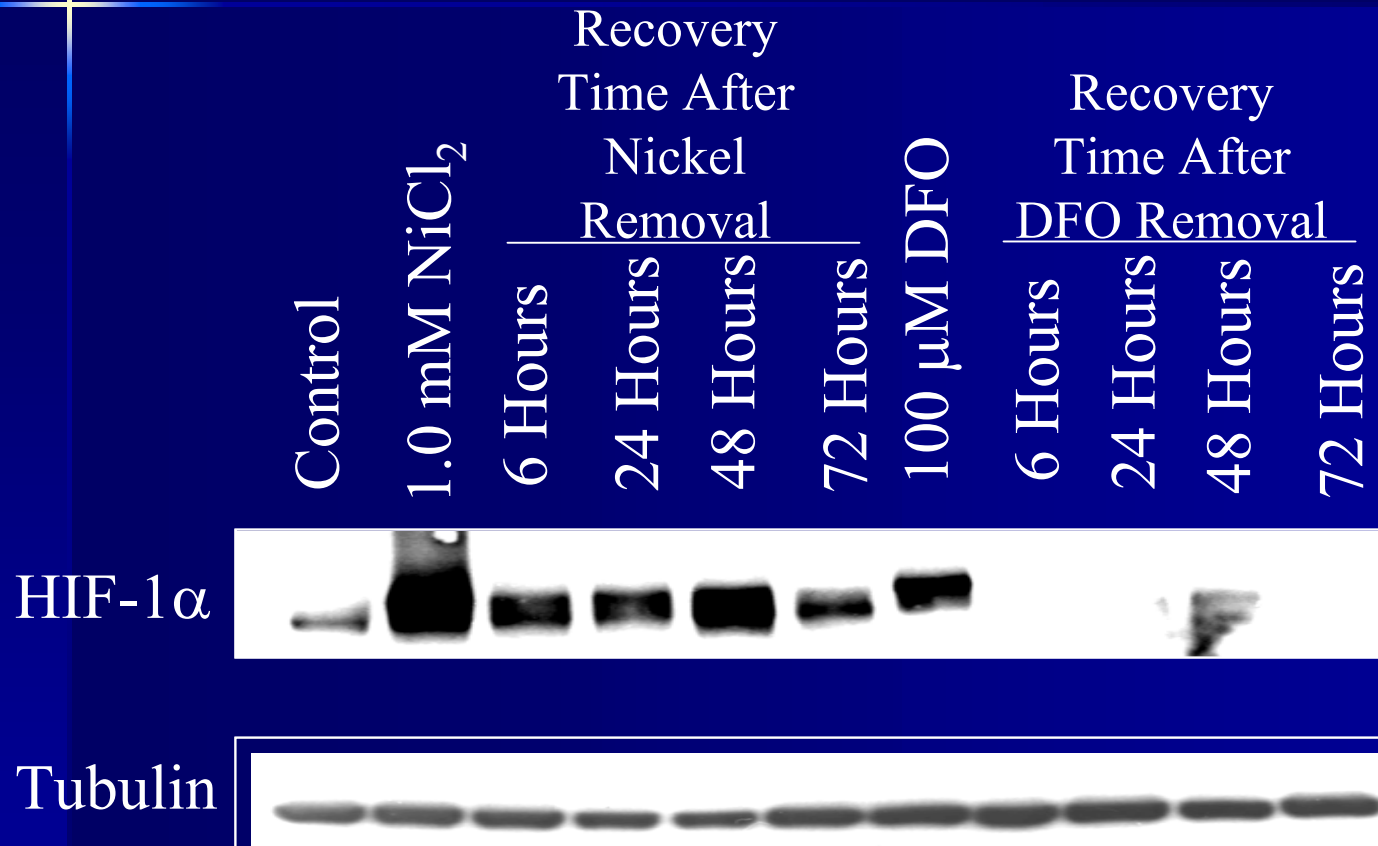
Cell proliferation  
and survival

Metabolic  
adaptation

Tumor growth,  
invasion, metastasis

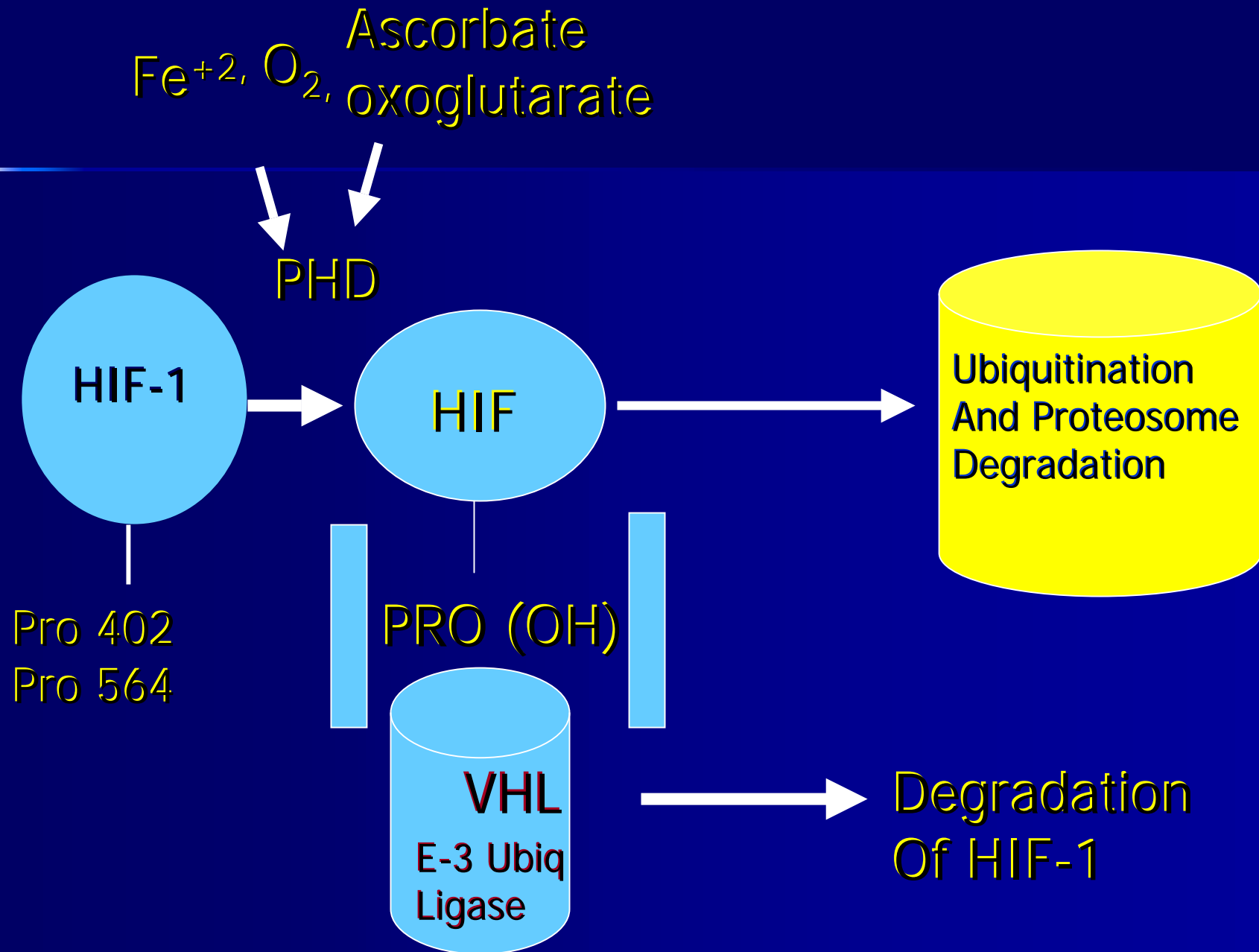


# Persistent Stabilization of HIF -1 alpha by $\text{NiCl}_2$





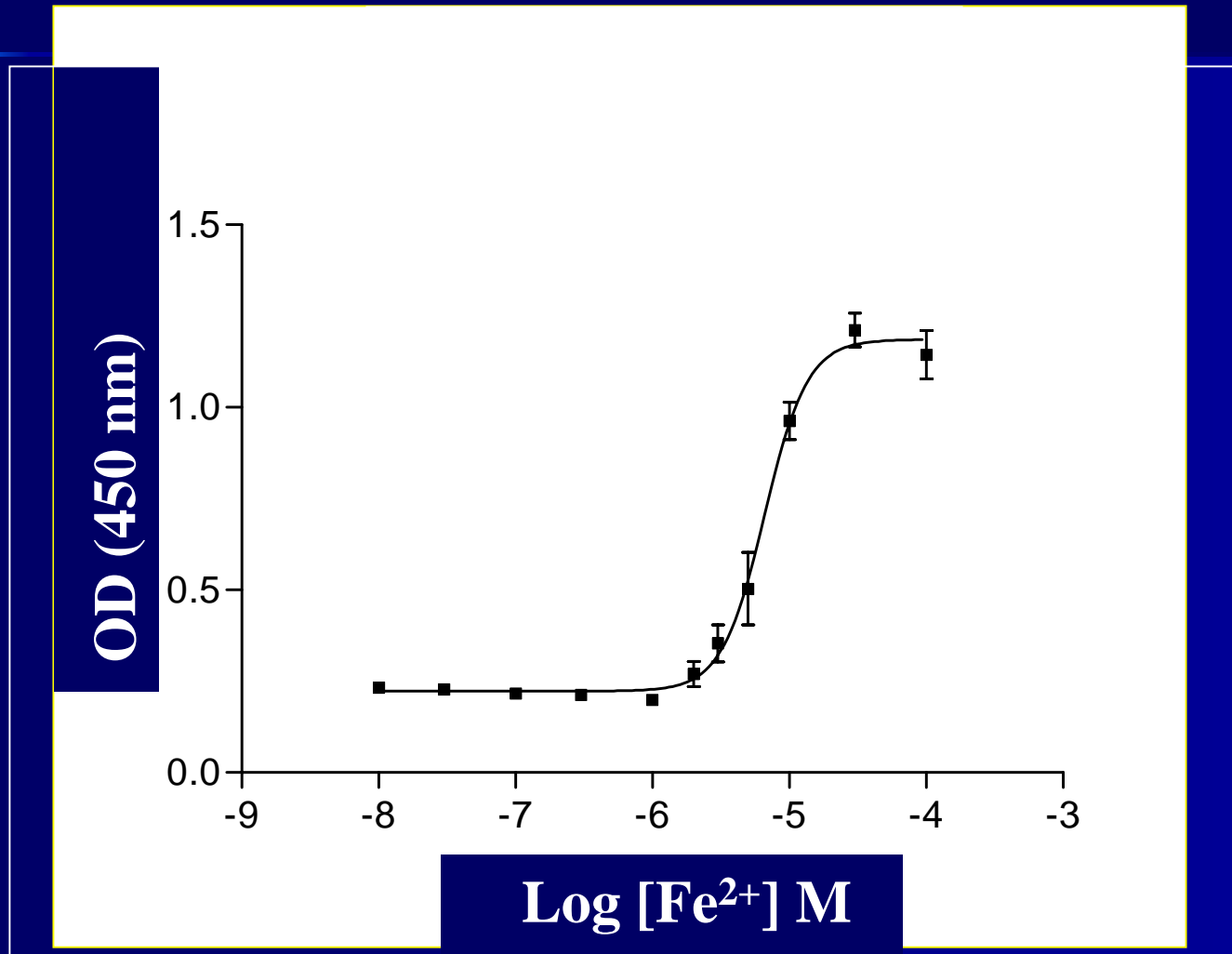
# Prolyl Hydroxylase Regulates Hif-1 stability



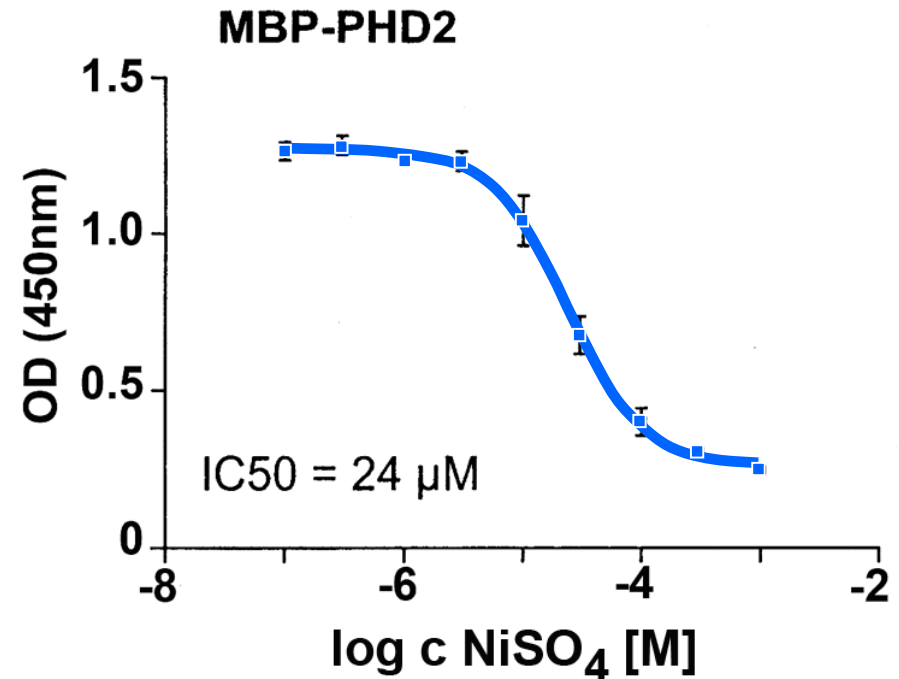
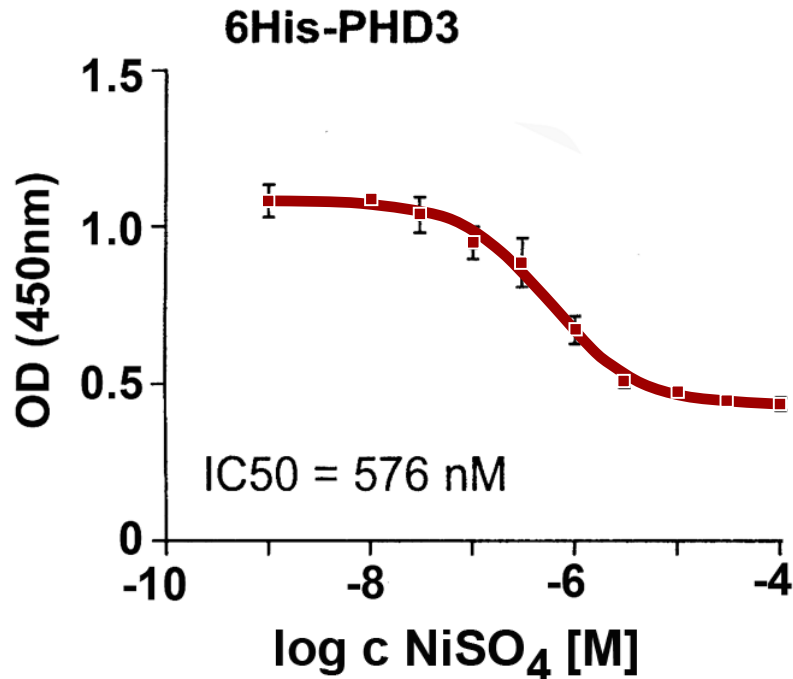
# Lack of reversibility of Ni Inhibition of HIF hydroxylation



# Requirement for Fe of PH2 (2ug protein)



# Inhibition of HIF-PHD2 and HIF-PHD3 by NiSO<sub>4</sub>



Biochemical assay performed according to Oehme et al. (2004) Anal. Biochem. **330**, 74 - 80

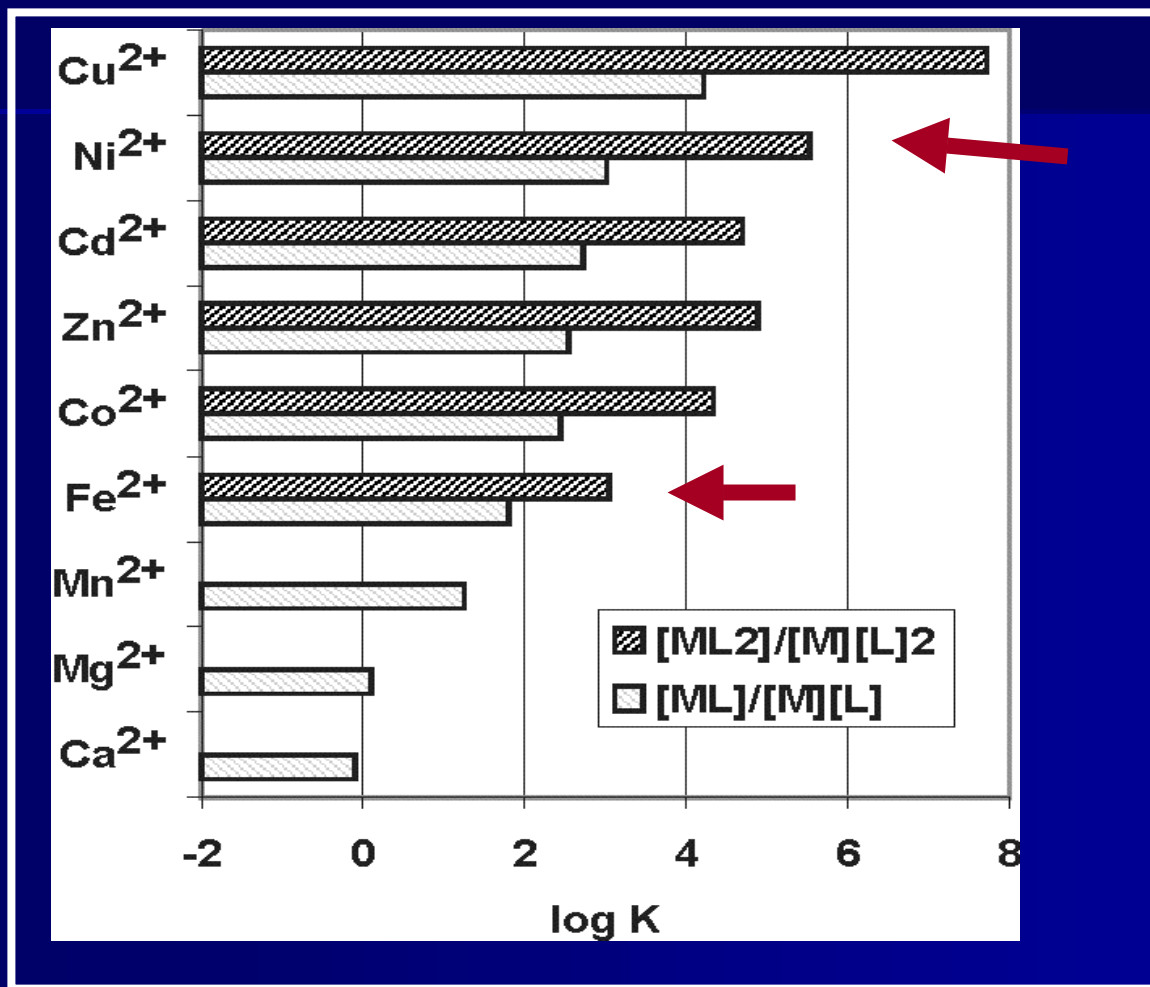
6His-PHD3: expressed in insect cells, initially purified by incubation with DEAE-Sepharose

MBP-PHD2: expressed in *E. coli*, purified by affinity chromatography with Amylose Resin

MBP-PHD2: 2 μg                      6His-PHD3: 20 ng (estimated)

Measurements were performed in triplicate and are shown as mean values ± SEM

# Binding Constants of Metal Ions to Imidazole



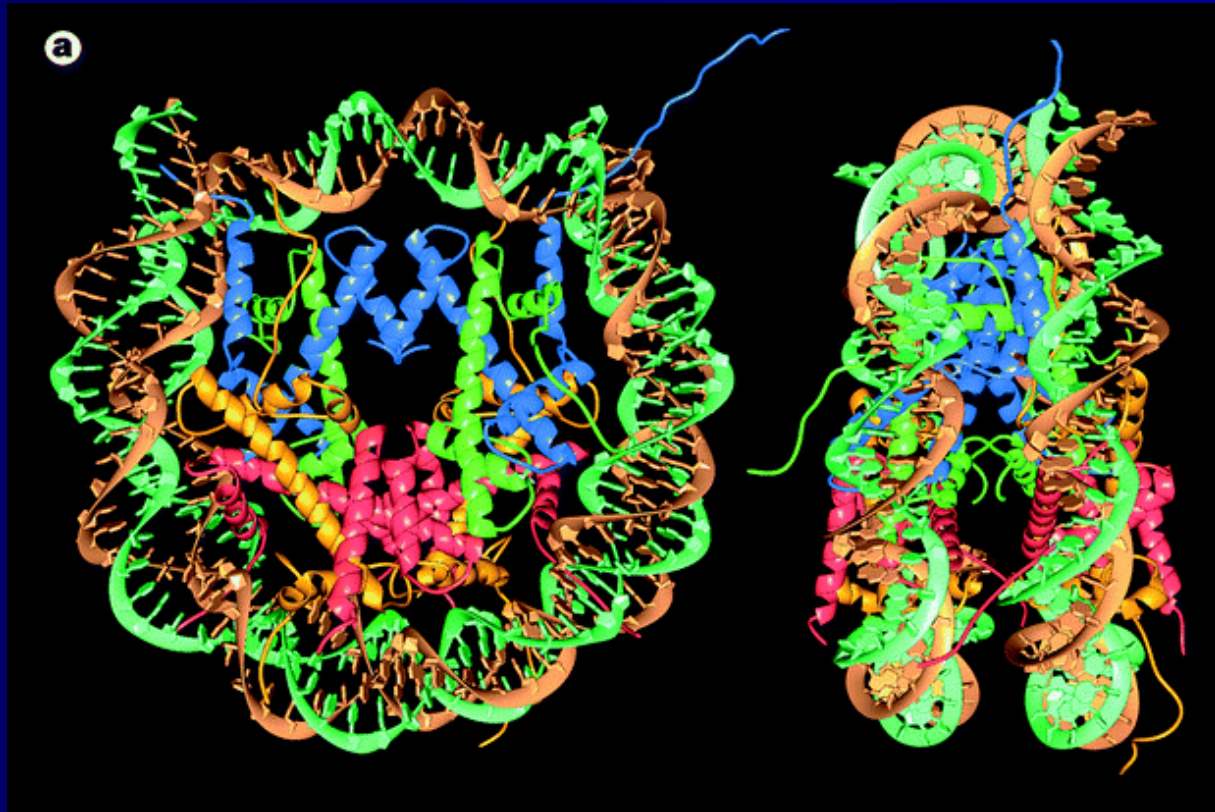
# Periodic Table

12											
0	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
2+	IIIB	IVB	VB	VIB	VIIB	VIII	VIII	VIII	IB	IIB	
um											
20	<b>Sc 21</b>	<b>Ti 22</b>	<b>V 23</b>	<b>Cr 24</b>	<b>Mn 25</b>	<b>Fe 26</b>	<b>Co 27</b>	<b>Ni 28</b>	<b>Cu 29</b>	<b>Zn 30</b>	<b>C 31</b>
3	44.955910	47.88	50.9415	51.9961	54.93805	55.847	58.9332	58.6934	63.546	65.39	69.723
2+	13 3+	15 4+	16 5+	16 3+	15 2+	18 3+	18 2+	18 2+	19 2+	16 2+	15 3+
n	Scandium	Titanium	Vanadium	Chromium	Manganese	Iron	Cobalt	Nickel	Copper	Zinc	Gallium
38	<b>Y 39</b>	<b>Zr 40</b>	<b>Nb 41</b>	<b>Mo 42</b>	<b>Tc 43</b>	<b>Ru 44</b>	<b>Rh 45</b>	<b>Pd 46</b>	<b>Ag 47</b>	<b>Cd 48</b>	<b>In 49</b>
2+	88.90585	91.224	92.90638	95.94	98.9063	101.57	102.9055	106.42	107.8682	112.411	114.818
um	13 3+	14 4+	16 5+	18 6+	19 7+	22 3+4+	22 3+	22 2+	19 1+	17 2+	15 3+
	Yttrium	Zirconium	Niobium	Molybdenum	Technetium	Ruthenium	Rhodium	Palladium	Silver	Cadmium	Indium
56	<b>La 57</b>	<b>Hf 72</b>	<b>Ta 73</b>	<b>W 74</b>	<b>Re 75</b>	<b>Os 76</b>	<b>Ir 77</b>	<b>Pt 78</b>	<b>Au 79</b>	<b>Hg 80</b>	<b>Tl 81</b>
7	138.9055	178.49	180.9479	183.85	186.207	190.2	192.22	195.08	196.96654	200.59	204.38
2+	11 3+	13 4+	15 5+	17 6+	19 7+	22 4+	22 4+	22 4+	24 3+	19 2+	15 3+
n	Lanthanum	Hafnium	Tantalum	Tungsten	Rhenium	Osmium	Iridium	Platinum	Gold	Mercury	Thallium
88	<b>Ac 89</b>	<b>Rf 104</b>	<b>Db 105</b>	<b>Sg 106</b>	<b>Bh 107</b>	<b>Hs 108</b>	<b>Mt 109</b>	<b>Uun 110</b>	<b>Uuu 111</b>	<b>Uu 112</b>	<b>Uub 113</b>
54	227.0278	261.11	262.11	263.12	262.12	264	266.1378	269	272	277	284
2+	11 3+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
n	Actinium	Rutherfordium	Dubnium	Seaborgium	Bohrium	Hassium	Meitnerium	Ununnilium	Unununium	Ununbium	Ununtrium

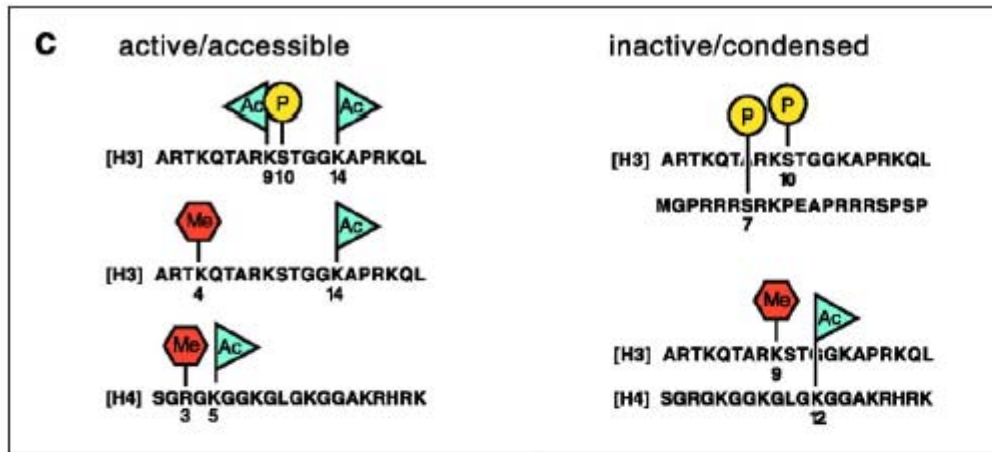
# Summary of Findings

- Transformation of Chinese hamster primary embryo fibroblast by Nickel Compounds inactivated tumor suppressor gene by DNA Methylation (*Science* 251:796--799 (1991))
- Carcinogenic Nickel compounds Induce transgene silencing based upon the location of the transgene near Heterochromatin (mammalian cells) or a telomere silencing in yeast. (Lee et al MCB 15 2547 1995)

# Structure of Nucleosome







Jenuwein and Allis, Science, August 2001.

### Histone Code Hypothesis:

Different combinations of histone modifications, especially located near or within a gene's promoter, may be VERY SPECIFIC to the transcriptional state of that gene.

### Associated with active/accessible chromatin

H3K9 Acetylated  
H3K14 Acetylated  
H3K4 (di-)Methylated  
H4 Acetylated

**ADD IN DNA METHYLATION, AND THE  
TRANSCRIPTIONAL REGULATION  
OF A GENE CAN BECOME VERY  
COMPLEX!!!**

### Associated with inactive/condensed chromatin

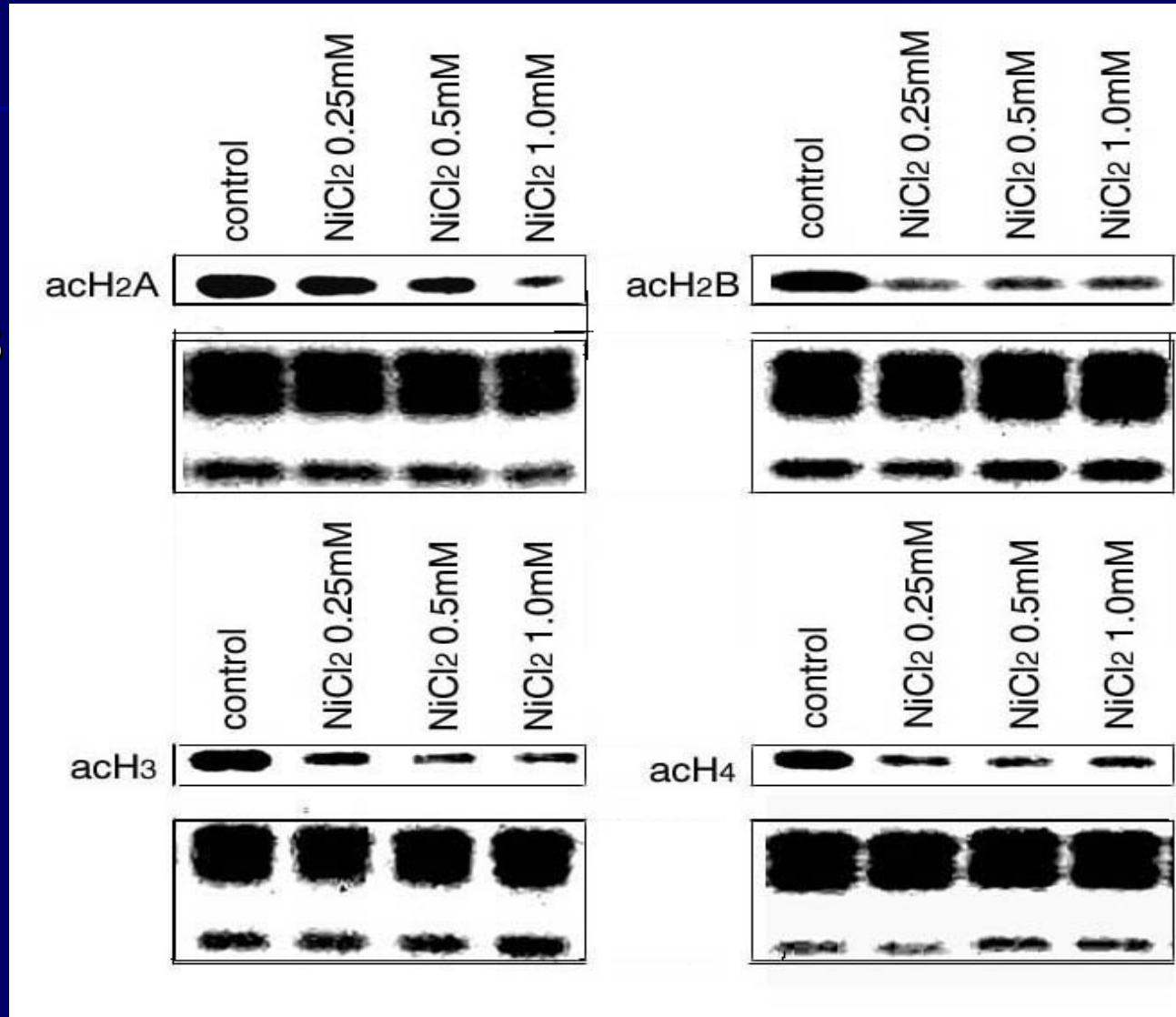
H3K9 Methylated  
H3K9 di-Methylated (inactive X-chromosome)  
H3K27 tri-Methylated (inactive X-chromosome)  
H3K9 tri-Methylated (pericentromeric heterochromatin)  
H3K27 mono-Methylated (pericentromeric heterochromatin)

## Aim1

Fig.1A. Ni decreases histone acetylation in A549 cells.

**A549**  
**24h**

**H3 15**  
**H2A 14**  
**H2B 13**  
**H4 11**



## Aim1

Fig.1B. Ni decreases histone acetylation in other cell lines.

24h

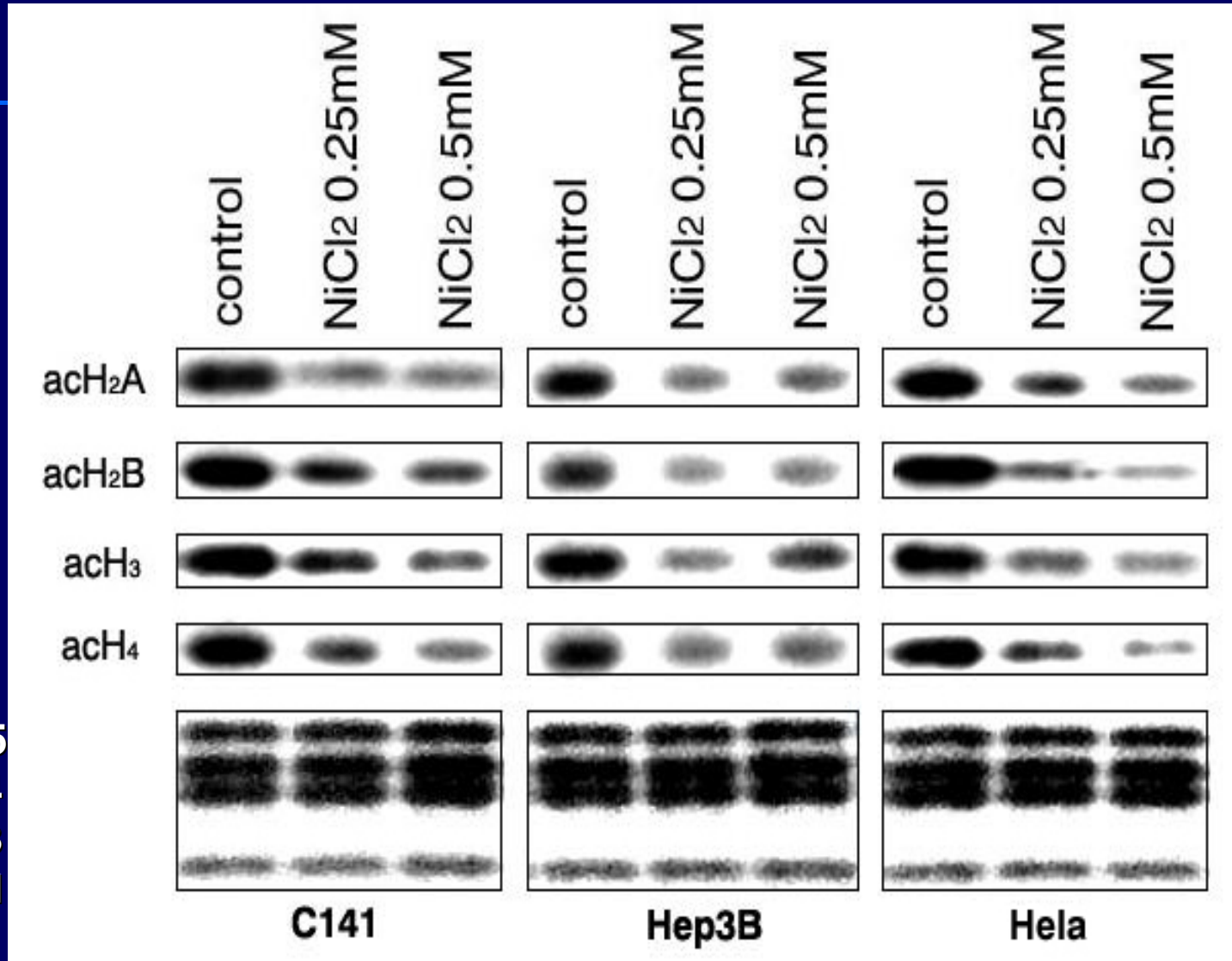


Table 1

Exposure to TSA reverted the ability of Ni-transformed cells to grow in soft agar

Ni-transformed clones	0 ng/ml TSA	5 ng/ml TSA	25 ng/ml TSA
1	100.0 $\pm$ 2.7	38.5 $\pm$ 5.2**	16.0 $\pm$ 1.3**
2	100.0 $\pm$ 12.4	65.7 $\pm$ 11.0*	34.2 $\pm$ 1.4**
3	100.0 $\pm$ 6.4	54.1 $\pm$ 6.9**	22.3 $\pm$ 0.3**
4	100.0 $\pm$ 13.0	48.7 $\pm$ 5.5**	36.5 $\pm$ 5.9**
5	100.0 $\pm$ 0.85	33.3 $\pm$ 1.1**	21.6 $\pm$ 4.1**

*Notes.* One million of the Ni-transformed cells were seeded into flasks and exposed to 0, 5, or 25 ng/ml TSA for 24 h. The TSA containing medium was removed and cells were rinsed three times with saline A. Fresh medium was added and the cells were allowed to grow to ~80% confluence. The cultures were split and the cells were seeded at a density of 1 million cells again. And cells were treated with TSA from a second time. After third round of TSA exposure, cells were allowed to repopulate the culture prior to test for the ability of anchorage-independent growth in soft agar. Results are expressed as a percentage of control (0 ng/ml TSA treatment group). Values are mean  $\pm$  SE. Asterisk indicates significant differences from that of control.

\*  $P < 0.05$ .

\*\* $P < 0.005$ ,  $N = 3$ .

A549

Hypoxia

Nickel 24 hr

C 1.5 3 6 9 (hr)

C 0.5 0.75 1 (mM)

Ac-H3K9



Mono-methyl H3K9



Di-methyl H3K9



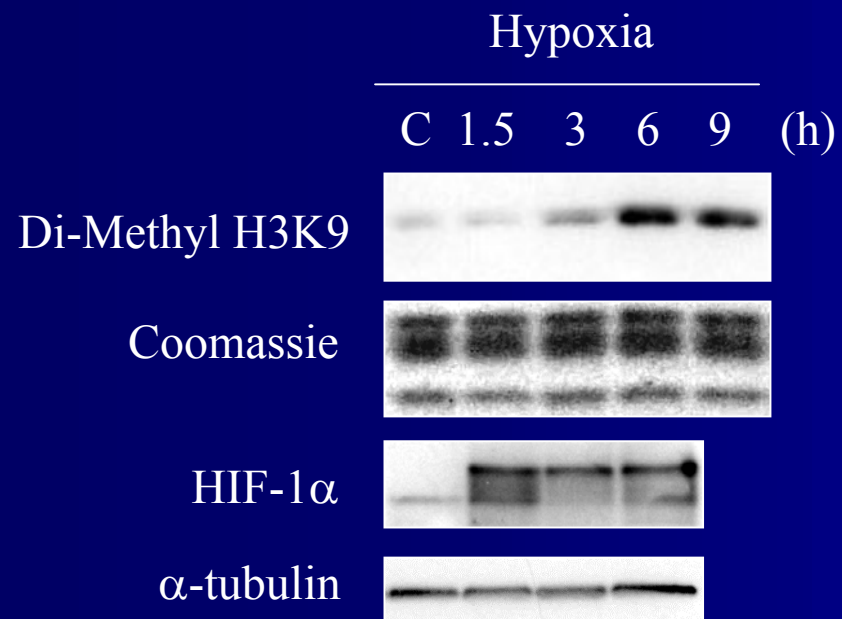
Tri-methyl H3K9



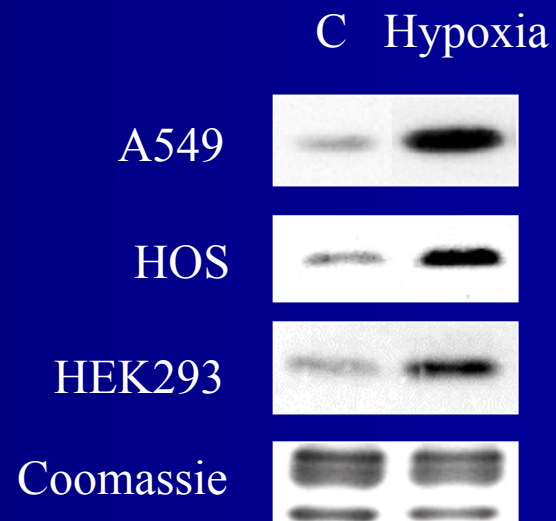
Ac-H4



a



b



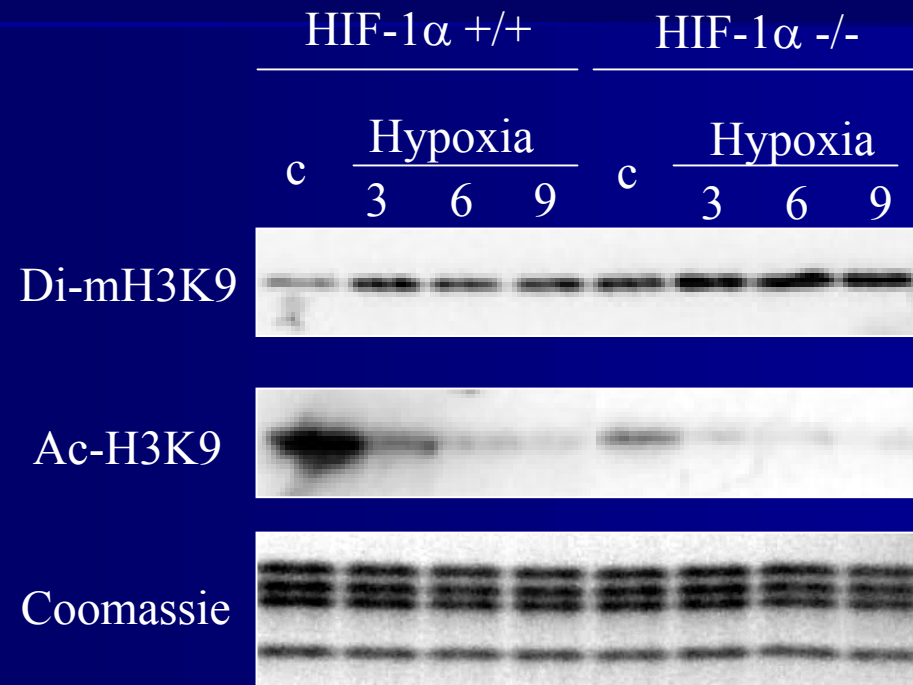
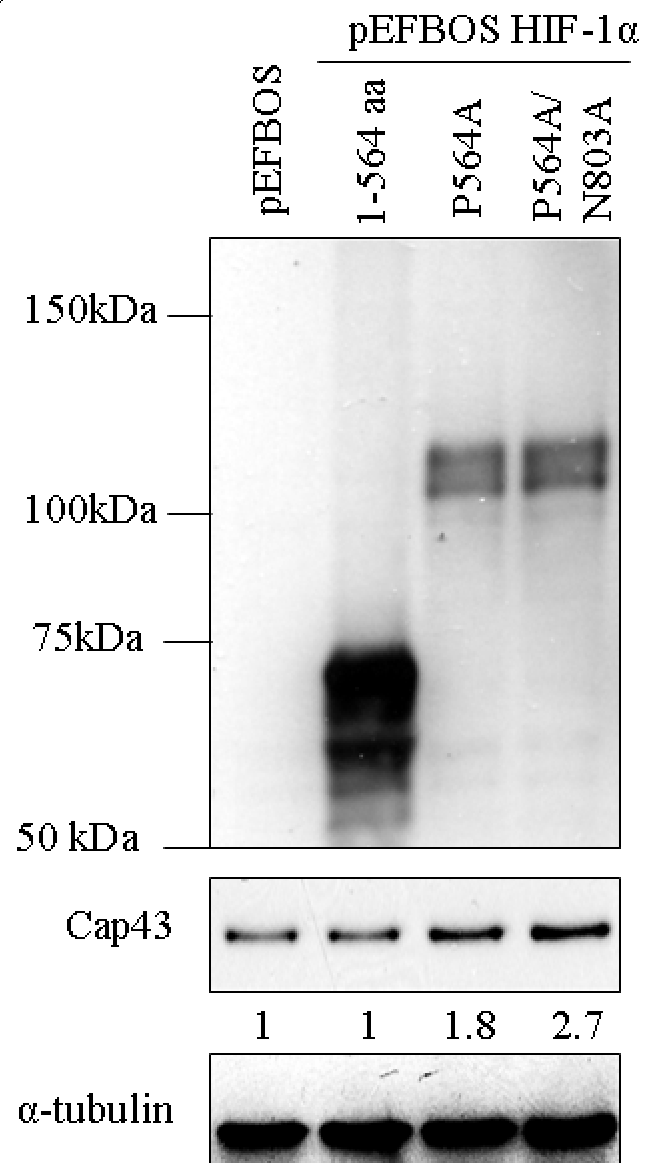
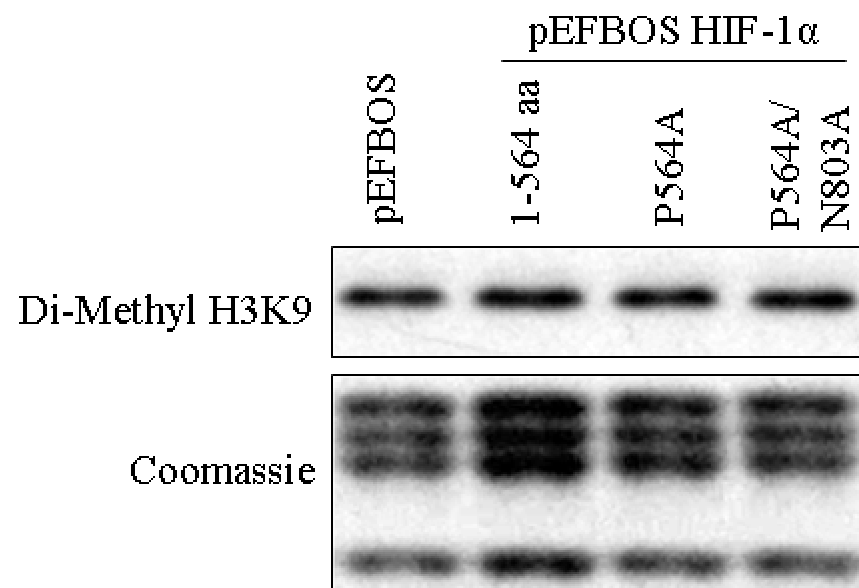


Figure 4

a

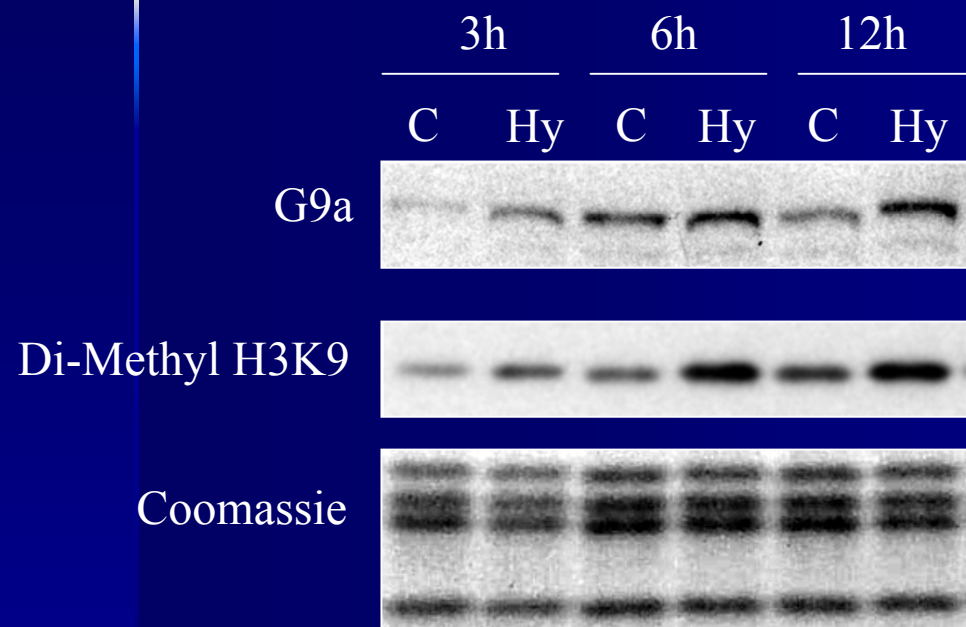


b

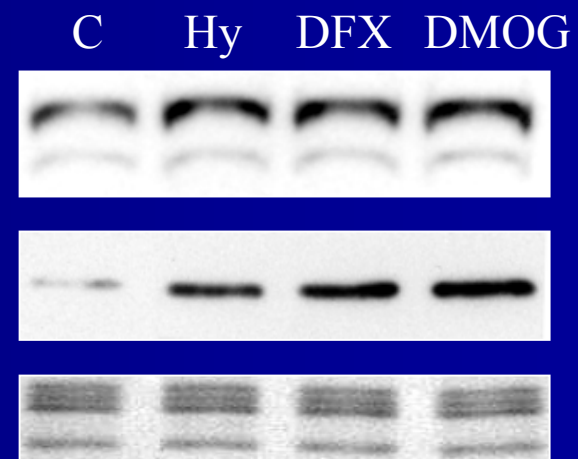




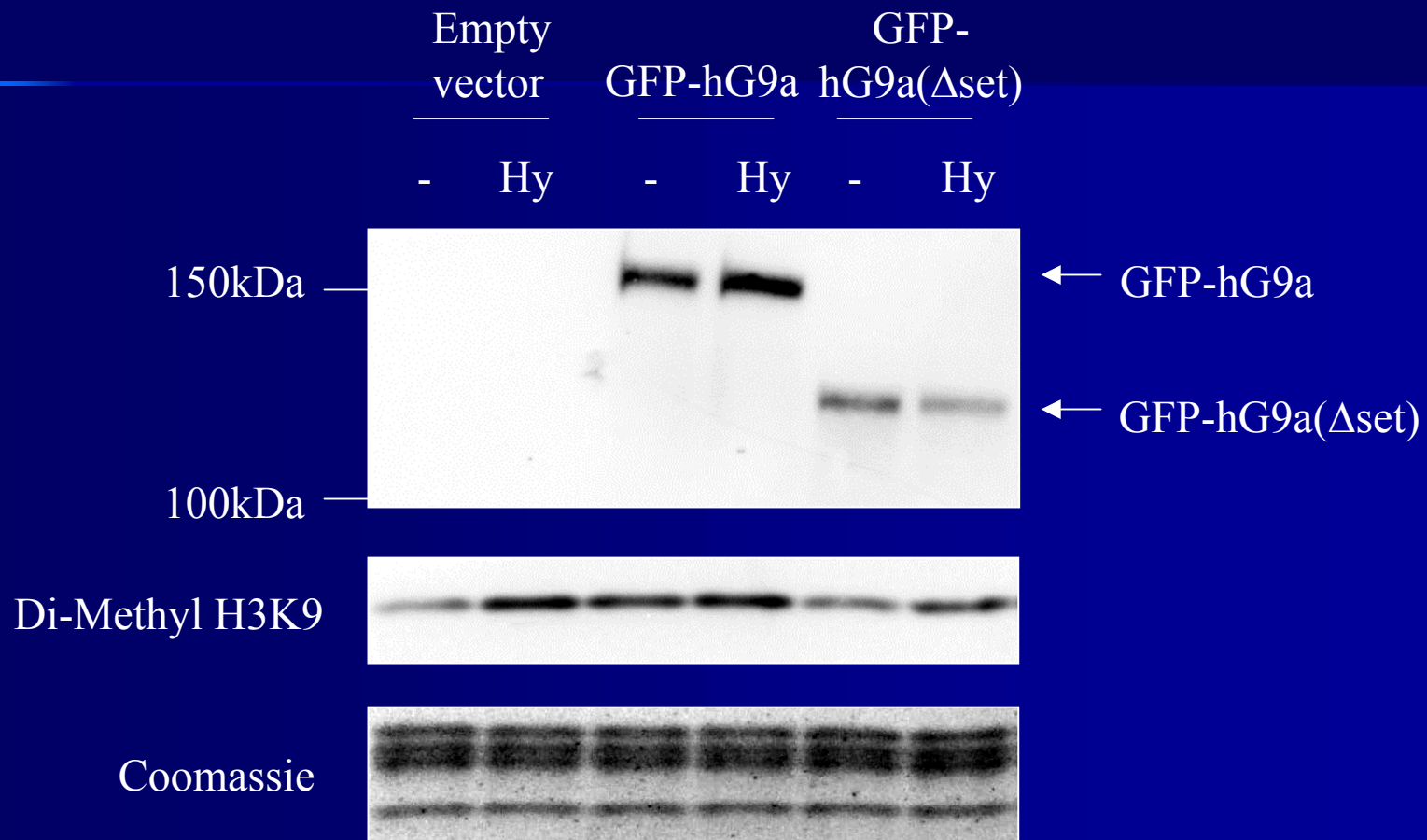
a



b



a



b

Empty  
vector

GFP-hG9a

GFP-  
hG9a( $\Delta$ set)

-

Hy

-

Hy

-

Hy

DFX

GFP-  
hG9a

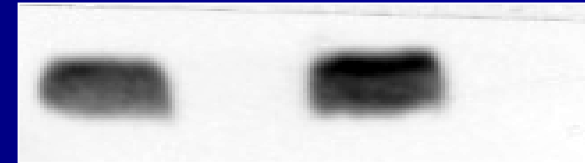
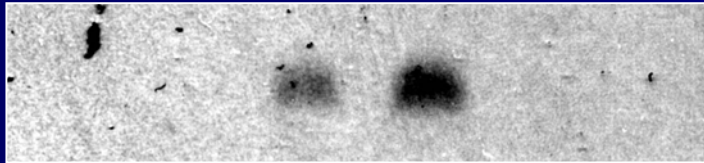
GFP-

hG9a( $\Delta$ set)GFP-  
hG9a

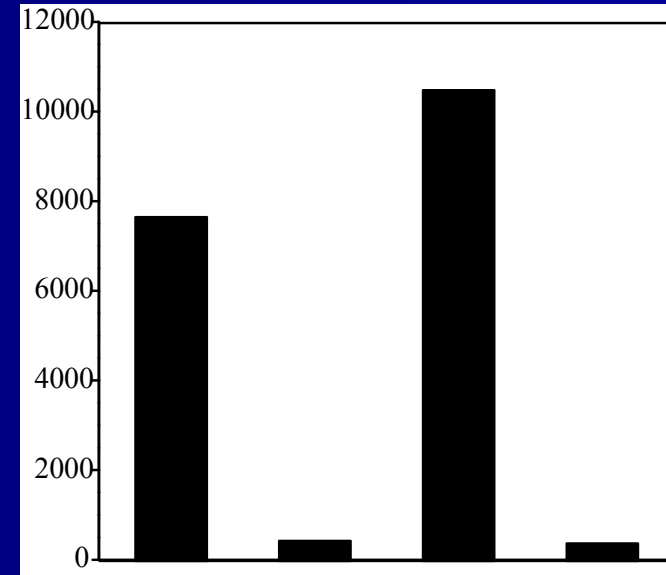
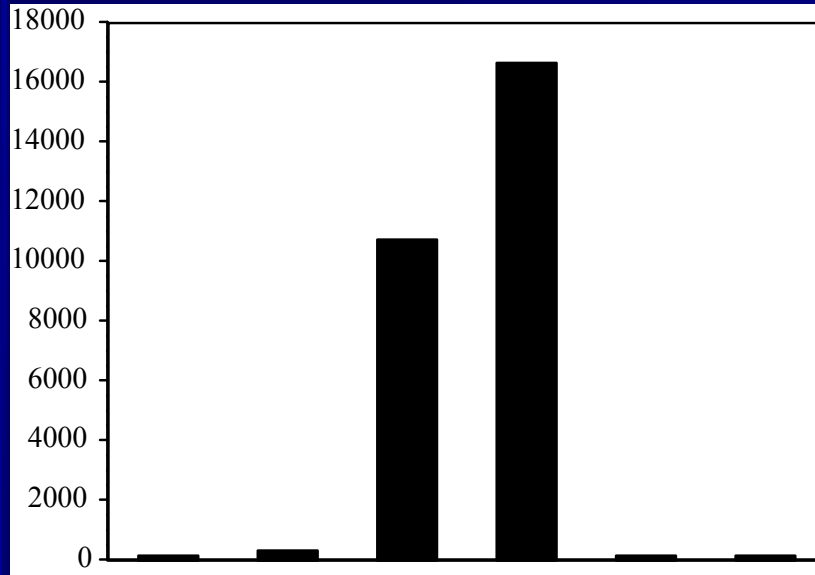
GFP-

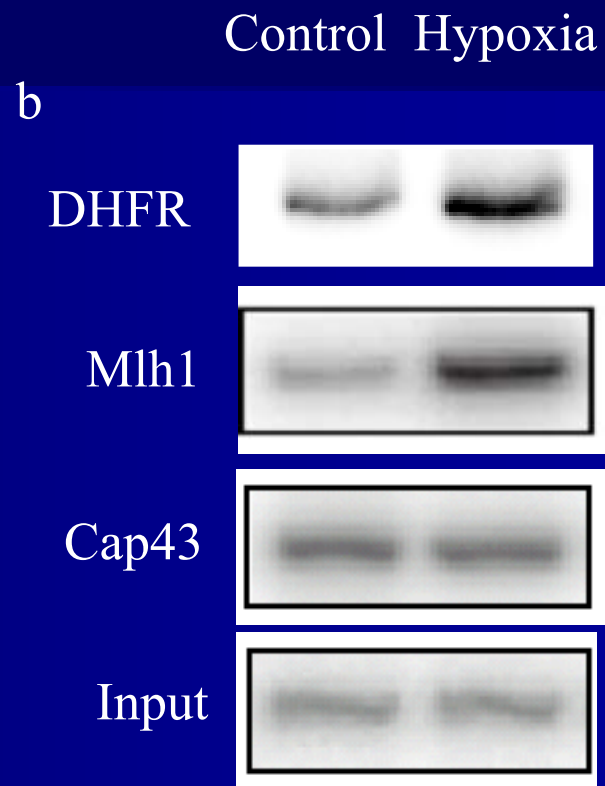
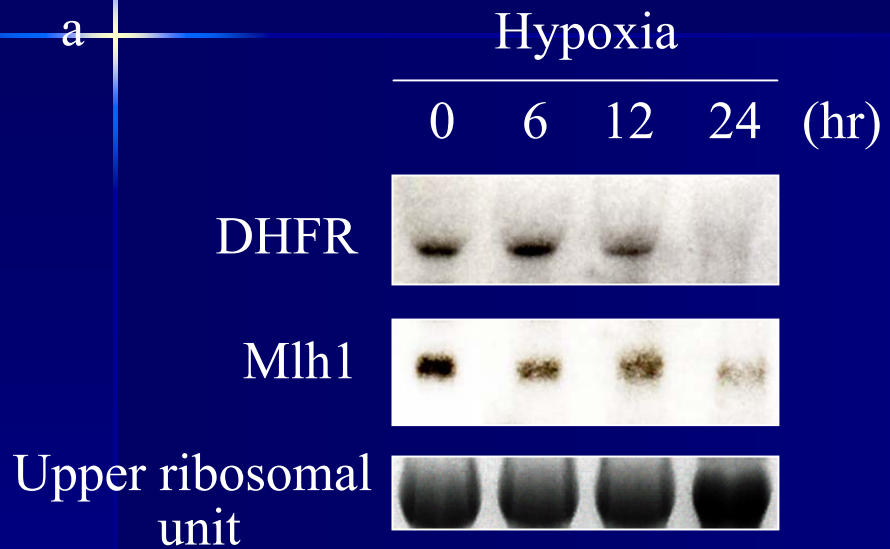
hG9a( $\Delta$ set)

Fluorogram

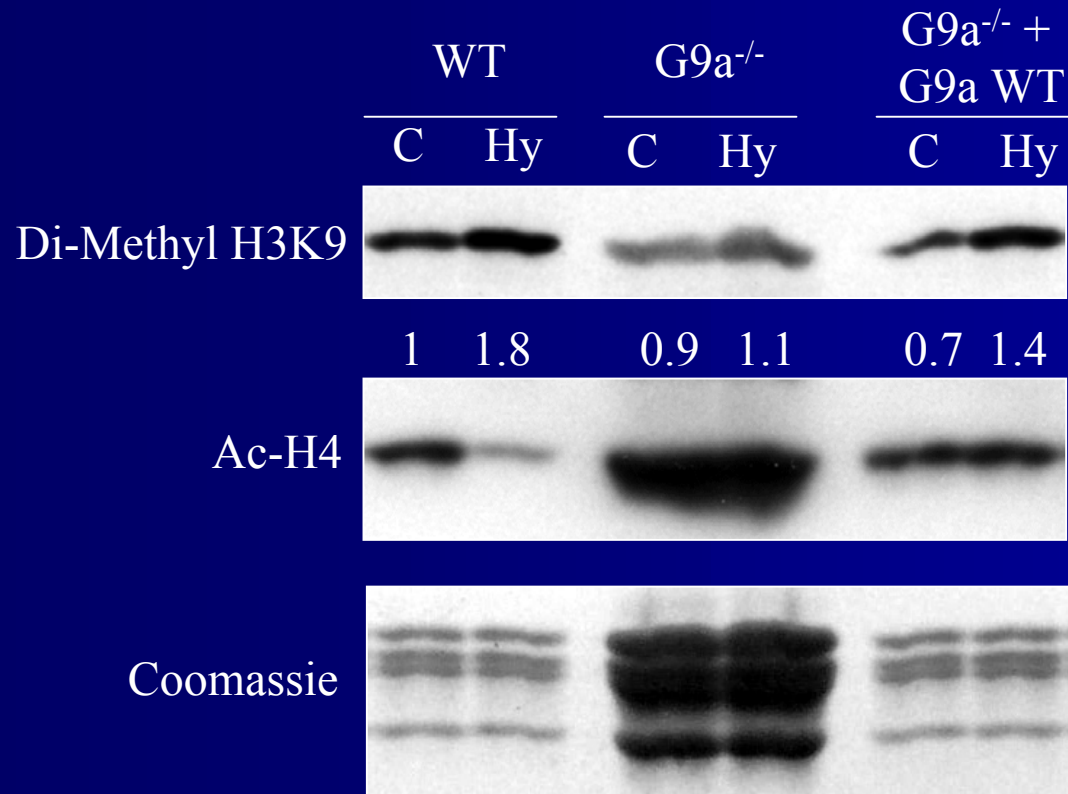


CPM



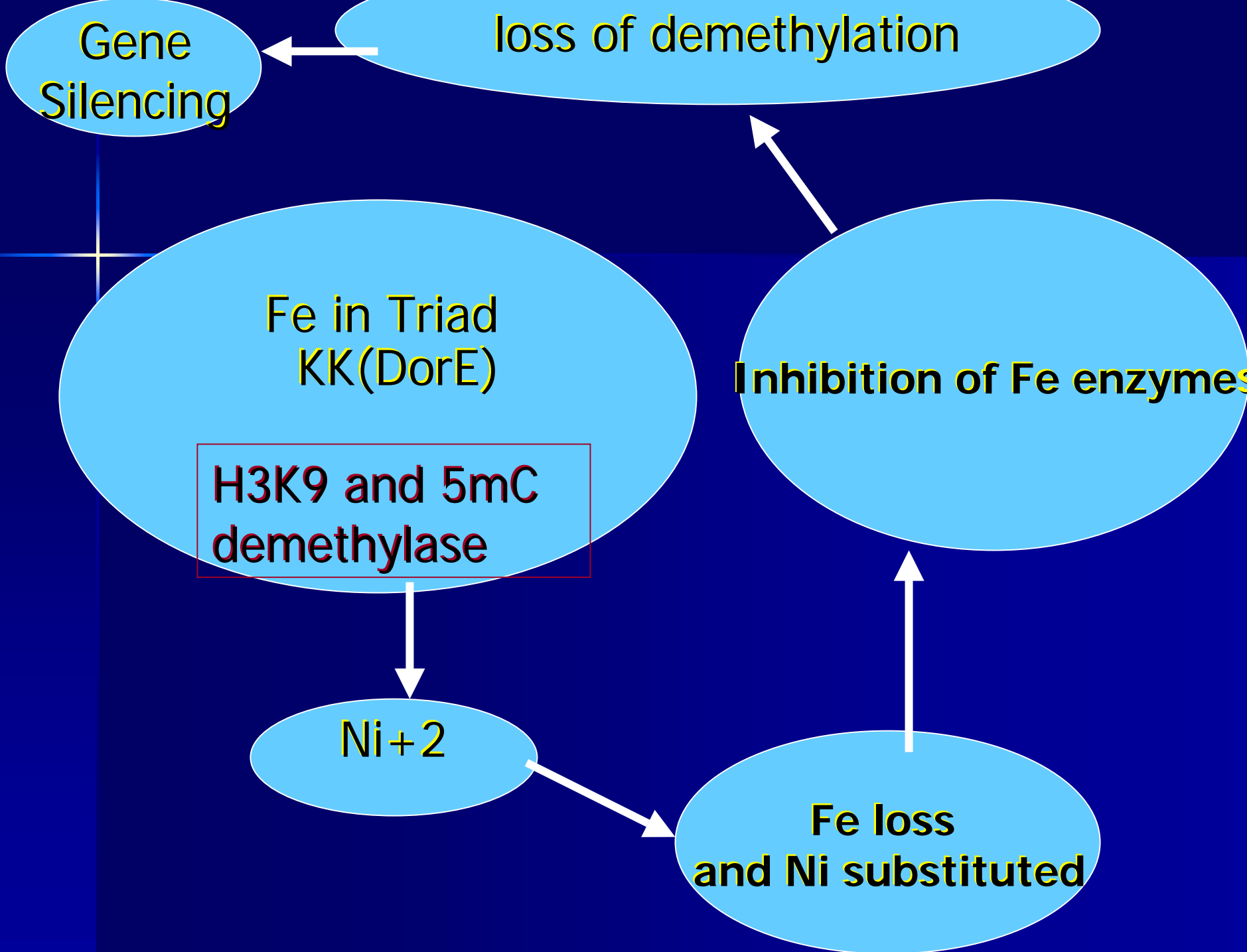


a



# Summary of the Effect of Ni compounds on G9a and H3K9 methylation

- Ni ions inhibited G9a activity and decreased its presence in the nucleus (see poster by H. Chen)
- We have been working on Fe, Oxoglutarate, ascorbic acid dependent H3K9 demethylase and 5-methylcytosine- demethylase and have found these activities in crude cell extracts. Ni ions are effective inhibitors of these enzymes.
- These are new enzymes and further work on their identification, purification and characterization is required.



# Acknowledgements

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